

The Silver Bullet

Balad Air Base, Iraq

Volume 2

Issue 10 www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf

March 8, 2004



Balad's facilities names chosen

The Services Squadron sponsored a contest to rename Balad's facilities to more closely align us with the rich heritage of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's Tuskegee Airmen.

The following names were the winning choices.

The Air Force Wing Headquarter's building is now *The Benjamin O. Davis Headquarters* building.

The lodging facility is now the *Tuskegee Inn*.

The Silver Bullet's new name is *The Red Tail Flyer*.

Tent city's new name is *T-Town*.

New airmen need to be aware of rules, regulations

By Staff Sgt. A.C. EGGMAN
332nd AEW Public Affairs

As Silver rotation begins to return home and Air Expeditionary Force 7 and 8 members arrive, new airmen need to be aware of Silver City's rules.

"The rules are a reminder that people need to keep things certain manner – neat, clean and orderly," said Silver City Mayor Master Sgt. Michael Hatcher, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. "They are basic common

courtesies and standards."

With nearly 1,000 airmen here, it is much like a dormitory, said Sergeant Hatcher. "It's my job to make it a comfortable and safe place to live. I provide a clean place to live, a place for people to live shower, shave and place to go the bathroom."

Some of basic common courtesies include being aware that people sleep at different times in Silver City and people need to observe quiet hours 24 hours a day in the living areas. Silver City is also

a no hat, no salute area. However, airmen must follow uniform dress standards in accordance with AFI 36-2903.

"There is no mixing civilian and military clothing," said Sergeant Hatcher. "If you wear the uniform, you need to respect it. The same uniform standards apply here as back home."

All airmen must wear their desert camouflage uniforms or physical training uniform when entering and exiting

Continued on Pg 4

Commander's Corner

New challenges ahead

By Col. MARKE GIBSON
332nd AEW Commander

Hello
 Baladians –
 With most of
 our AEF
 Silver team
 either gone
 or on their
 way out,
 there will be

some challenges and new things to get
 used to for those of us left behind to
 carry on the mission.

The challenges will be similar to the



ones the Silver rotation experienced
 when new missions and people arriv-
 ing.

For a short time, we will have an
 overflow of people in our tents and
 office facilities. Until, the Silver
 rotation has left, I ask you to exercise
 patience. Increased people can mean
 more waiting and long lines. We have
 to remember that we're on the same
 team working toward the same goal –
 a better Iraq.

In the meantime, learn as much as
 you can from the person you are
 replacing. Get up to speed as quickly
 as you can. Most of you will be here

approximately 90 days and each day
 needs to count.

The pace for the next 90 days will
 be fast and furious. I will ask a lot
 from you as we work toward making
 Balad more than just a strategic hub,
 supporting the Army's logistical
 support mission.

Together, we can make Balad a
 better place not only for this rotation,
 but for the people who follow us. The
 Silver rotation laid the foundation, now
 it is up to you to continue to build upon
 their great start. Together we can do
 anything.

Let's have a great week!

We have many missions at Balad, but why are we here?

By Lt. Col. BRUCE WILLIAMSON
*332nd Expeditionary Mission Support
 Group commander*

We have
 many missions
 at Balad Air
 Base, but why
 are we here?
 Why stand up
 another air base in
 Iraq? The short an-
 swer is the Army wants and needs us
 here.



Logistic Support Agency Anaconda
 is the Army logistics hub for all of Iraq.
 Everything that the Army delivers to its
 soldiers in the field comes through this
 installation from bottled water, MREs,
 uniforms to boots, blankets, vehicle
 parts and ice. If a soldier eats, drinks,
 wears, sleeps in it, or uses it to fix a
 vehicle or piece of equipment, it comes
 through LSA Anaconda. It's a massive
 logistical effort and it's usually located
 well behind the front line.

The great Army logistics effort
 comes from Kuwait and moves
 convoy after convoy through the often,
 deadly roadways from Kuwait to here

in the Sunni triangle and back, and then
 out to all the installations in Iraq from
 this base.

What does all this have to do with
 the U.S. Air Force? Put in human
 terms, it's about reducing convoy
 requirements for the Army and saving
 lives. Every three pallets that can be
 flown directly here means one truck
 and two soldiers don't have to make a
 dangerous trip on the IED (improvised
 explosive device) laden roads of Iraq.
 Day after day, that adds up to quite an
 impact. You're an important part of
 this joint effort to build and sustain the
 air bridge into Iraq. Be proud that
 you're part of Team Balad. We're
 making a real difference to our broth-
 ers and sisters in arms, the Army and
 through them, to the people of Iraq.

The establishment of Balad and this
 aerial port - our primary mission -
 would never have happened without
 the outstanding efforts of both the
 Army and Air Force working together.

I've been told we are the busiest
 military airfield in the world. To make
 that happen successfully, a lot of
 soldiers and airmen were involved and
 worked jointly to improve and manage

the airfield, protect the installation,
 approach and departure zones, and
 managed the tremendous amount of air
 traffic, passengers, and cargo each
 day and still do.

Did you know we have joint units or
 operations at tower, airfield operations,
 crash fire rescue, explosive ordnance
 disposal, aerial port, defense operations
 center, and emergency and attack
 response? A joint effort of this magni-
 tude isn't done anywhere else in the
 world that I am aware of. We're making
 history here. It's been said several
 times that our accomplishments here
 will be studied in Army and Air War
 Colleges as a tremendous, successful
 joint venture.

Working jointly is often times not
 easy. There are communication
 challenges, attitude differences, and
 just plain differences in how we do
 things. We've had great experiences
 with some organizations, and frankly,
 not as good with some others. Those
 we've had great experiences with are
 those who saw the bigger picture and
 looked beyond the immediate pain of

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It takes team effort to build up bare base

Why we're here
Continued from Pg 2

changing operations and moving to make room for us. To bring in C-17s and C-5s, we needed room to park them, refuel them, offload and upload them, and space for cargo and passenger terminal operations 24 hours a day. That in itself was a challenging and frustrating mission, especially when the airfield and base areas were already full with Army units.

We've overcome quite a few challenges since we arrived in October, but there are still challenges ahead. So how do you deal with those challenges in a joint environment?

Have a positive, can-do attitude. Commit to the win-win philosophy. Understand that there will be obstacles and believe that you will overcome them. Clearly define your requirements and communicate them. Then listen and understand the situation and what it will take to meet the requirement. Agree on the end state or requirement and be committed to working together. Most issues can be solved with agreeing on the goal and then working together to identify possible solutions. Be open to new ideas and honestly evaluate the options for solving a problem.

What are the pros and cons? Can you find a win-win solution? Our best accomplishments here have been the result of sticking with the objective of finding a way to solve the problem that was good for both the Air Force and the Army. I say the success story of Balad was worth every bit of pain it took to make it happen and worth any future challenges we will face. We're in this together, and we're going to be successful, every joint step of the way.

Homecoming:

Don't assume things haven't changed

By Maj. LAYNE BENNION
447th AEW Life Skills

Don't assume things have to be the way they were when you left ... Many of us are scheduled to return home within the next several weeks.

We all have thoughts and fantasies about what it will be like to return home.

Sometimes our expectations are beyond realistic and when real life doesn't match our expectation, we can feel disappointed, frustrated or even angry.

Following are some general thoughts to consider as you prepare mentally and emotionally for the return home:

☐ Transitions can be stressful, or at least tiring, for everyone. Even positive stressors like returning home can be exhausting.

Take your time to re-adjust to a different world and allow others to adapt to you.

☐ Everyone changes during your deployment—this includes your children, your spouse or significant other and your friends.

You may have lost some weight, become used to making independent decisions, gotten used to having lots of time for recreational pursuits or exercising, and developed some new hobbies (some healthy, some perhaps not).

Your family has learned to live more independently, learned new skills, and has met new friends.

Of course, change isn't necessarily bad and doesn't mean your family doesn't love you. It does mean that your family or friends may be different when you get back.

Don't assume things have to be the way they were when you left—

the changes are likely to be good ones. Often household chores need to be re-negotiated. For example, your spouse may be tired of doing dishes all the time and dishwashing isn't even an event on your radar screen.

☐ People tend to remember the good and forget the bad. This is a natural human condition. Indeed, believe it or not, in several months most of us will look back on this time with some nostalgia.

Remember there were difficulties and frustrations at home and at work before you left. Those little irritations, in yourself and in others, are likely still there. In addition, your spouse or coworkers may have "reserved" some problems to be addressed when you return.

☐ Communication and intimacy may not be as smooth and easy as you imagined. In fact, face-to-face communication, having hours to be together, and intimacy may actually feel a bit awkward at first.

It's been months, and both of you may initially feel out of practice or notice a sense of distance. This is not uncommon and is not cause for alarm.

☐ Children may behave in unexpected ways when you return. Children, particularly young children, may initially have strong reactions to a parent returning – shyness, silliness, clinging, anger, misbehavior, toileting problems, sleep difficulties, etc.

Remember young children don't remember people and events as easily as adults do. At young ages, even if they recognize you, it's those who have had a day-to-day physical presence who are comforting to them.

For more information, call Capt. Annette Bryant at 458-1153.

News

Rules remind airmen to keep tent city clean and orderly

Rules, regulations

Continued from Page 1

Silver City's entry control point. Civilian clothing is allowed when airmen are off duty, but only in the confines of tent city. Civilian clothes must be in good taste. Tank tops and short sleeve shirts can only be worn when at the Fitness Center.

Members must be in uniform at the DFAC or in Air Force PT gear. PT gear is also authorized for wear inside the Post Exchange, Army recreation tents and on Sundays at the DFAC.

Sunglasses and goggles will not be worn propped up on the head, forehead or affixed on the exterior of the uniform.

Sunglasses and/or goggles with straps may be hung around the neck.

Other rules include keeping living areas clean. While highly discouraged, eating is permitted in tents but tents must be free of crumbs. Garbage must be taken out daily to keep rodents and other predators from being attracted to tent city. Residents are also required to bath daily.

"It is important health and hygiene wise," said Sergeant Hatcher. "You never know how many people you can make sick, affecting the over mission."

Also, for privacy reasons, males and females are not allowed each others tents unless on official business.

Safety is also another consideration.

"Fire is our biggest threat," said Sergeant Hatcher. Smoking is authorized in designated areas only. No smoking is allowed in or within 25 feet of any tent, or while walking around within tent city. Smokers must be within 10 feet of a butt can as well. Signs have been posted throughout tent city. If there is no sign, it is not a smoking area.



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Hatcher

Currently, Silver City has one trash bin. It is between the fitness center and cadillacs. Silver City residents are required to dump their trash daily and place it in or near the bin if it is full.

Other safety issues include wearing a reflective belt at night, during low visibility and wearing safety belts at all times. Passengers are allowed to ride in the back of the truck, but passengers must be seated on the floor of the truck bed and not on the side rail, wheel well or leaning against the tailgate.

Vehicle traffic within tent city is only allowed on a needed basis. Exceptions include pickup and drop off of large baggage and service vehicles. The speed limit is 5 mph.

For more information or a complete list of Silver City's rules, refer to 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Operating Instruction 36-01.

"The rules are basic standards adopted throughout the Air Force," said Sergeant Hatcher. "All I ask is everyone shows common courtesy to their neighbor." If anyone has a question or concern about Silver City, the rules, suggestions, or complaints, etc. they can contact Sergeant Hatcher via e-mail.

Other rules

Clothing

❑ **Gortex** – Can be worn without rank during inclement weather in tent city only.

❑ **Inappropriate clothing** – Sleeveless shirts, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, cut off jeans or clothing with derogatory remarks or improper language cannot be worn at any time.

❑ **Head gear** – Floppy hats must be worn with the brim flat. Draw strings must be under the chin, behind the head, or tucked inside the hat.

❑ **DCU blouse** – Can be removed in an indoor work area. Shirt may only be removed while outdoors during hot weather when approved by a supervisor.

❑ **Scarves** – Issued scarf or triangular bandanna to protect against elements or for use as a sweat rag is authorized.

❑ **Workout wear** – Tank tops and sleeveless shirts, uniforms and shower shoes are authorized in the fitness center.

Eyewear

❑ **Sunglasses** – Vendor names and logos are acceptable unless too faddish. Black, brown, silver and gold frames are permitted.

❑ **Goggles** – While in uniform, goggles may be worn around the neck when not in use.

Miscellaneous

❑ **Flightline** – Photography of the flightline, entry control points and defensive fighting positions is not authorized without prior coordination with Public Affairs.

❑ **Showers** – Airmen must conserve water. This includes taking combat showers of five minutes – wet, lather and rinse.

❑ **Tent moves** – Airmen are not allowed to change tents without their first sergeant or commander's approval.

❑ **Theft** – Thefts of material, equipment, furniture or other government supplies will be investigated and will result in disciplinary action.

Taking the oath

Four new Balad fire fighters re-enlist together

By Staff Sgt. A.C. EGGMAN
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Tax-free re-enlistment bonuses, the privilege to serve and an opportunity to keep doing their job combined, prompted four new additions to Balad's team to re-enlist together March 4.

Four fire fighters deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, who recently became members of 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron fire department chose their Army lieutenant to administer the oath.

"I was honored to do it," said Army 1st Lt. Christian Whitted, fire marshal. "I figured they would have asked one of their Air Force officers."

It is the first time he had re-enlisted an Air Force person. The former Army NCO said any time you re-enlist someone is a privilege, especially in a combat theater.

"It's a big step in their lives and to be a part of that is a privilege," said Lieutenant Whitted, who has been deployed here since May. The lieutenant said he hasn't had a chance to get to know the Airmen well since they just arrived Feb. 24. Although they arrived together, they hadn't planned to re-enlist as a group, said Senior Airman Sean Ryan.

"It was just kind of a chance happening I suppose," said Senior Airman Sean Ryan, who re-enlisted for five years. "I'm glad to be re-enlisting with my teammates."

This is the three-year veteran's first deployment. "What a better way to kick off a new enlistment than to do it in a war zone," he said. "I had a job, but I needed a career. I'm about to start a family and job security is a must. My decision is based on how best to care for my family."

Serving in the military is tradition, he said. "Every man in my family has served at one time or another. The Air



Photo by Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis

From the left: Staff Sgt. Brian Partido, Senior Airman Christopher Wyman, Staff Sergeant Sean Ashton and Senior Airman Sean Ryan, raise their right hand during their re-enlistment oath March 4 in front of the Balad Fire Department.

Force takes good care of me, so I'm happy to be able to repay them with my service in my career field."

Eight-year veteran Staff Sgt. Sean Ashton said it was luck they all re-enlisted together.

"I thought it would add a special touch," said the eight-year veteran, who re-enlisted for five years. Sergeant Ashton said he plans to be career Airman because he simply enjoys wearing the uniform and serving his country.

Another five-year re-enlistee, Staff Sgt. Brian Partido said was hoping he would be deployed when he re-enlisted to take advantage of the tax-free reenlistment bonus, but the joint re-enlistment wasn't planned.

"I think it mostly had to do with timing," said Sergeant Partido. "It just worked out that way. I think it is pretty cool, though."

Sergeant Partido said he plans to be career Airman and he joined the Air Force to be a fire fighter and to see the world.

"I love what I do and I get the best level of training in the world," said the

seven-year veteran. "I have a great sense of pride in what I do and what the American military represents."

Sergeant Partido has deployed before and each time has given him a new perspective.

"I have found that there is a specific purpose for what we do," he said. "I see the impact that we have on other nations and cultures. I feel that what we are doing is just and well needed."

Other than being stationed and re-enlisting together, the airmen do have one other thing in common – their families are proud they are serving.

"They're all very proud," said Airman Ryan. "Some were nervous about me coming here, but they understand my reasons and respect for them."

Sergeants Ashton and Partido said their families think it's outstanding they are serving their country.

"They love it," said Sergeant Partido. "It's a privilege to be able to serve my country like my family before."

Senior Airman Christopher Wyman also re-enlisted with group, but was unavailable for comment.

Sports

Pressing power

The Fitness Center held its Bench Press Competition Sunday night. The following were the winners in their divisions:

Overall winner

Clarence Fountain, KBR

Heavy Weight

Mr. Fountain

Middle Weight

Michael Todd, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Overall and Women's Division

C.E. Lewis, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron



Photos by Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis

Clarence Fountain, KBR, took the Overall and Heavy Weight divisions.



Michael Todd, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, mentally prepares before lifting.



Kevin Moneace, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, weighs in before the competition starts.



C.E. Lewis, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, took the Women's Division.



Photo by Ken Calloway

The winners pose after competition.

Around Balad

People in your neighborhood

**Staff Sgt.
Tymbika Mason
732nd Expeditionary
Mission Support Group**

Home station: Nellis AFB,
Nev.

Arrived in the AOR: Feb 13

Family: Parents, Stephen and
Twylia Patton and my dog Titan

Hobbies: Singing, writing and
reading

How do I contribute to the mission? I am the information manager for the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group. I do the decorations and awards, get the mail, help with correspondence, staff summary sheets and other administrative functions.

What is my favorite aspect of this deployment? My favorite part of this deployment is some new improvement happens almost weekly.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? I miss American food and not having to confuse a C-5 for an attack alarm.



Briefly Speaking

Join the Honor Guard

The Balad Honor Guard is looking for motivated individual to become Ceremonial Guardsmen. Come check them out Saturdays from 6 to 7 am. at the Recreation Center.

Tent decks

There are several "decks" under construction in Silver City. This not approved construction. When it is tent members must submit the AF Form 332 through the Civil Engineer Squadron, and have it routed and approved before construction begins.

Report port-a-john issues

If your port-a john or latrine trailer is not being serviced in a timely manner, please call the Civil Engineer Squadron at 458-1113.

Silver Lining Chapel

Protestant service

Sunday

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary
Service

5:30 a.m. - Traditional Service

Wednesday

7 p.m. Choir practice

8 p.m. Bible Study

Catholic service

Sunday

Noon - Mass

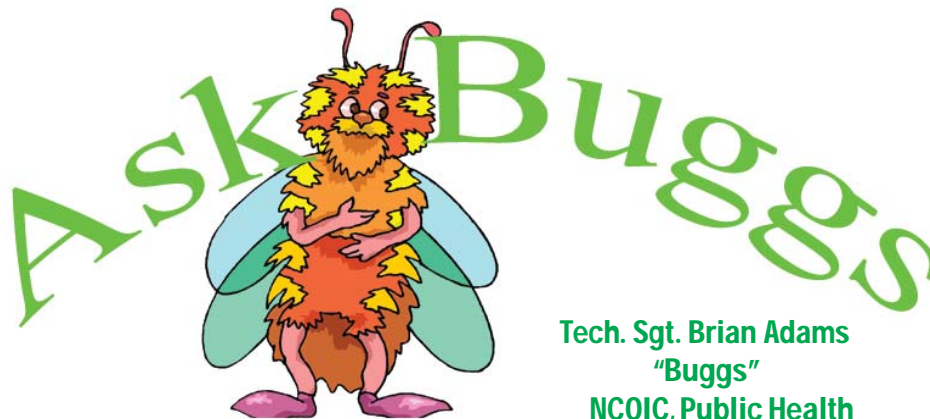
LDS service

Sunday

7 p.m. - Sacrament meeting

Thursday

7:30 p.m. - Family Home Evening



"Ask Buggs" is a column that answers frequently asks Public Health questions. To submit questions send them to brian.adams@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q: Hey Buggs, are we supposed to be using bed nets?

A: During the winter months, use of bed nets has been optional. However, beginning April 1, bed nets

will be mandatory for all Air Force members at Balad.

Obviously, with our current bunk-beds, you cannot use the poles that are intended for a military cot. But rigging up the bed net is fairly simple.

All you need is some rope or twine.

Our plan is to show all the Unit First Sergeants how to properly rig the bed net, so if you have any questions, see your Unit Shirt. After the bed net is up and in place, make sure you spray it with Permethryn, the yellow spray can you deployed with.

Numbers 2 Know

☎CC Support Staff.....	458-1160
☎CE Cust Service	458-1109
☎Chaplain's Office.....	458-1144
☎Command Chief.....	458-1119
☎Command Post.....	458-1122
☎Comm Help Desk.....	458-1000
☎Contracting.....	458-1030
☎EOD.....	458-1103
☎Finance.....	458-1027
☎Fire Dept.....	911/458-1059
☎First Sergeant.....	458-1064
☎JDOC.....	458-1801
☎Lodging.....	458-1501
☎Logistics Plans.....	458-1161
☎Medical Clinic	458-1038
☎OSI.....	458-1169
☎PERSCO.....	458-1128
☎Public Affairs.....	458-1149
☎Public Health.....	458-1036
☎Protocol.....	458-1182
☎Recreation Center.....	458-1498
☎Safety.....	458-1151
☎Silver City Mayor.....	458-1105
☎Silver Bullet	458-1096
☎Supply.....	458-1193
☎TMO.....	458-1192

Movie theater

Tech. Sgt. John Peay, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron, rolls out the carpet in the new Movie Theater beside the Recreation Center. Work on the new theater began in late February. The 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron put up the GPS tent, made tiers and put in a big screen. Sergeant Peay installed the wiring, sound system and the carpeting. The theater is scheduled to be completed today. The Services Squadron will begin showing movies at 11 a.m. Stop by the Recreation Center for your popcorn and soda.



Photo by Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis

Breakfast: 5:30 to 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

DFAC LUNCH & DINNER MENU

Dinner: 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Midnight: 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Lunch Baked ham Chic fried steak Clam chowder	Lunch Cornish hens Pork chops Vegetarian soup	Lunch Roast Turkey BBQ ribs Chic noodle soup	Lunch Baked chicken Salisbury steak Mushroom soup	Lunch Spaghetti Braised beef Broccoli soup	Lunch Beef stew Pork roast Chic noodle soup	Lunch Baked fish Turkey cutlets Chicken rice soup
Dinner Fried chicken Roast pork Fettuccini Clam chowder	Dinner Baked fish Pot roast Swiss steak Vegetarian soup	Dinner Beef fajitas Chicken fajitas Enchiladas Chic noodle soup	Dinner Stuffed flounder Fried shrimp Prime rib Mushroom soup	Dinner Chicken breast Pork Schnitzel Meatloaf Broccoli soup	Dinner Baked chicken Chili Con Carne Lasagna Chic noodle soup	Dinner Pork chops Roast beef Chic cordon bleu Chicken rice soup

The Silver Bullet

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Published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

This unfunded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *The Silver Bullet* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial content is prepared, edited

and provided by the Public Affairs staff of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing - Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 458-1149, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil

All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

Deadline for all editorial submissions is 5 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.